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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/008,675	01/16/1998	AKIHIRO NAGATA		6512

7590 09/12/2003
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18
EXAMINER

HOPKINS, ROBERT A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1724

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/008,675

Applicant(s)

NAGATA ET AL.

Examiner

Robert A Hopkins

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13-17 and 21-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-10, 14-17, 22, 23, 25 and 26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 12, 18-20 and 24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11,12,18-20, and 24 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 11,12, and 18-20 are allowable for the reasons stated in the office actions dated 9-7-99 and 1-18-00.

Amended claim 24 is deemed to overcome the airtight bag or envelope structure of Perkins and hence is allowed.

Claims 13 and 21 are incomplete because the claims on which they depend from have been cancelled by the examiner in accordance with MPEP 1214.06. Applicant is given a ONE MONTH TIME LIMIT from the date of this letter in which to present claims 13 and 21 in independent form. NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) WILL BE GRANTED. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in cancellation of claims 13 and 21 and this application will be allowed with claims 11,12,18-20, and 24. Claims 1-10,14-17,22,23,25, and 26 are withdrawn from consideration as per the board decision dated 8-22-02 and 11-7-02 and will be cancelled in the next office action.

Claim 13 recites "wherein the step of wrapping comprises the step of wrapping the at least one sheet of vapor impervious film spirally around the radially outwardly facing surface of the belt/belt sleeve body". As per the decision by the patent board of appeals dated November 7, 2002, the step of spiral wrapping is not anticipated by the

Art Unit: 1724

"airtight bag or envelope" embodiment of Perkins. Therefore , it would not have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a step of wrapping the at least one sheet of vapor impervious film spirally around the radially outwardly facing surface of the belt/belt sleeve body because Perkins does not suggest such a modification.

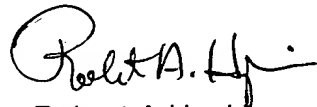
Claim 21 recites "wherein the at least one sheet of vapor-impervious film is spirally wrapped around the radially outwardly facing surface of the belt/belt sleeve body". As per the decision by the patent board of appeals dated November 7, 2002, the step of spiral wrapping is not anticipated by the "airtight bag or envelope" embodiment of Perkins. Therefore , it would not have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide at least one sheet of vapor-impervious film which is spirally wrapped around the radially outwardly facing surface of the belt/belt sleeve body because Perkins does not suggest such a modification.

Art Unit: 1724

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert A Hopkins whose telephone number is 703-308-3913. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on 703-308-1261. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Robert A Hopkins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

Rah
September 11, 2003